

HULOPO`E BEACH PARK COUNCIL MEETING

October 27, 2022

Via Zoom and in person

PRESENT: Michelle Fujie, Jonathan Sprague, Butch Gima in person
Tammy Sanches, Kelli Maltezo, Sean Fonte via zoom

Pulama Staff-Noemi Barbadillo, Makana Cortez via zoom

MINUTES:

Butch moved, Michelle seconded the motion to approve the September 2022 minutes. Motion was approved unanimously, with no abstentions.

PARK UPDATE:

Noemi reported on the following:

1. Christian Nabor has been hired as the newest Park Ranger and will currently have the morning coverage from 6:30 to 11:30.
2. One of the men's urinal was pulled off and is to be replaced.
3. Waiting on the arborist's recommendations regarding the dead trees.
4. Meagan DeGaia, HTA/MCVB was emailed re: updates to the proposed mineral sunscreen dispenser that's to be installed on the exterior of the new bathroom. Since it's in the Special Management Area, Meagan needs approval of a SMA exemption before the Lana'I Planning Commission on 11/16/22.
5. There are plans to purchase a robot to clean the beach sand-both the Planning Department and DLNR have been notified.
6. Jon and Kelli asked about the status of Non-resident camping based on emails to the HBPC. Noemi noted Pulama continues to evaluate this but does not anticipate opening up Non-resident camping until the first quarter of 2023.
7. Pulama is entertaining several bids to repair the "sinkhole" near the new bathroom.
8. Grill repairs are slow due to delays in getting parts, fabrication by the welders and gas shortages.

Public Testimony

1. Mike Oxener commended Pulama for repairing the water fountain on the new bathroom. Noemi pointed out shipping delays contributed to the fix as well as the detailed repair of rats eating the wiring. He asked that the HBPC take more of a lead in overseeing the beach park. This came after he pointed out the lack of maintenance and repairs following the July flooding of the beach park. Specifically noted the need to repair the hibachis.

RANGER'S REPORT:

The monthly beach count spreadsheet was not available to the Council. However, Makana Cortez shared their data:

Trilogy	2072
Expeditions	1213
Total	3285
Four Seasons	3378 (includes Manele, Koele and Island Club members) (count has always been duplicative)

Mid-day beach

count monthly total	3201
High	184
Low	45
Average	103
Camping Residents	523

Public Testimony:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Items B and C were stricken as they were discussed in Park Updates.

A. Beach Access/Reservation update and recap of 10/7/22 Council Session

Discussion revolved around two items:

1. Gate

- Re-visited the intent of the use of the gate, liability concerns for Pulama and need to close the beach park when there are safety concerns. However, the beach park should be open ASAP when there no longer safety issues.
- Council noted the need in keeping the beach park closed despite some members of the community feeling otherwise.
- It was suggested during times of closure that Pulama provide daily updates to improve communication and minimize assumptions or criticism.
- Michelle suggested gate signage with daily updates and/or insuring the Rangers provide consistent and current updates.

2. Beach Park Management

- Jon talked about Pulama's current position on an Alternate Public Beach Access, its challenges and questionable benefits.
- Consequently, there has been some talk about considering addressing overuse of the beach and beach park at its source; day trippers in Lahaina.
- Jon noted will be meeting with Senator Lynn DeCoite about possible legislation and/or permitting options to address overuse issues.
- It was suggested the council look at Waianapanapa State Park and Diamond Head State Park as "Ascent Partners".

ACTION ITEMS:

- a. Jon will draft a letter to Pulama re: suggestions noted above re: gate closures and increased/improved communication
- b. Jon and Michelle (plus possible students) to contact the Ascent Partners.

Public Testimony

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Selection schedule for Bruce Harvey's replacement

-Today is Bruce's last meeting as an At-large council member.

-Kelli noted the process to fill the vacancy:

a. Post the flyer announcing the vacancy

b. 30 day window for submission of applications

c. Pulama and LSG council reps to review apps and select the replacement

-Per Michelle's request, Kelli to call prior applicants who were not selected and ask if they still want to be considered for the vacancy

-Flyer will be posted on or around 11/1/22

-Deadline for submission will be 11/30/22

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

None.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Jon announced the `Ua`ukani fallout season where baby chicks are coming out of their nests and get distracted by lights and fall out. If injured chicks are found please call Pulama at 808-563-0013 and leave a message. Injured chicks are sent to the Big Island for treatment.

Michelle said the school's paddling team will begin their season mid-November with its first race in December some time.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, November 17, 2022, 5p

Via Zoom and in person at the Senior Center

PROPOSED AGENDA:

1. Council Session follow up on the Action Items
2. At Large vacancy update
3. Annual Site Visit Coordination